

OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH  
PUBLIC ACT SUMMARY



**PA 14-191—sHB 5476**  
*General Law Committee*

**AN ACT CONCERNING A STUDY OF THE FEASIBILITY OF  
LEGALIZING INDUSTRIAL HEMP**

**SUMMARY:** This act requires the agriculture, consumer protection, and economic and community development commissioners to study the feasibility of legalizing industrial hemp to (1) encourage economic development and (2) increase new businesses in Connecticut. They must first consult with the attorney general.

Under the act, each commissioner must study a different aspect of legalizing industrial hemp. The agricultural commissioner must study its production; the consumer protection commissioner must study its possession; and the economic and community development commissioner must study its sale.

The act also requires the consumer protection commissioner to report, by January 1, 2015, to the Commerce, Environment, and General Law committees on his recommendations for:

1. establishing a statutory definition of “industrial hemp” to distinguish it from marijuana, based on a percentage of proposed tetrahydrocannabinol (the active compound in marijuana) in the hemp;
2. exempting industrial hemp from the law’s definition of “controlled substance”; and
3. creating a licensing system for growers and sellers.

Lastly, the act makes a technical change to an internal reference in PA 14-51, which, among other things, requires the Consumer Protection Department to establish a list of all heating fuel dealers that offer prepaid guaranteed price plans to consumers.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** Upon passage, except the technical change to PA 14-51 takes effect July 1, 2014.

OLR Tracking: KLM:RP:PF:am